



Agenda of the EB meeting 2024-04 on 20 September 2024

Time/place of the meeting: 8h00 ZOOM

Indico: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1456621/>

Present: Ben Kilminster Chair (BK), Tobias Golling (TG), Paolo Crivelli (PC), Michael Spira (MS) and Angela Benelli (Admin, AB).

Agenda. Approved.

Apologies. None.

A. Administrative items

Minutes of the last meeting (2024-03)

List of Actions

Dates of next 2024 EB meetings:

B. Items for discussion

1. Flare requests update:

- **Removal of ET Flare Request**
ET has decided to withdraw its flare request. Instead, Marcella and Steven are preparing a new proposal focusing on gravitational waves. This proposal will involve an investment in projects such as Virgo, LIGO, and potentially KAGRA. Their rationale is that to participate in ET's future, they need to establish credibility by contributing to existing projects. They plan to submit a proposal for initial R&D work, which will provide a foundation for future funding requests related to ET.
- **Proposal Presentation**
I requested Marcella to prepare a detailed report similar to the ones presented at the September 23 board meeting, where each group discussed their flare requests. Since this is a new initiative, they will need to defend it before the board as it represents an additional request.
- **ET Program Focus**
The ET program currently emphasizes computing, but there seems to be less urgency for this aspect at the moment. This could allow time for developing a stronger national effort. As such, the original ET line item may be replaced by a new one focusing on Virgo and related projects.
- **Upcoming Deadlines and Budget Concerns**
The deadline for flare submissions is November 15. Following the completion of the September and October tasks, we will need to address the issue of being over budget. While we are not an enforcement body, there is little flexibility in the budget.
- There was also a discussion about ensuring funds are reserved for the remaining two years. We need to be cautious, particularly with the ATLAS project. If we receive a delay announcement for the LHC schedule, possibly by the end of next week, there may be some flexibility in the funding cycle. This could help alleviate current budget strain, but we should clarify expectations for the final two years of the project.
- **Action Items**
Marcella to present the gravitational wave flare proposal at the next board meeting.
Further discussions are needed regarding the potential two-year funding extension, especially concerning the expected order of magnitude for the final years of the project.
- **Next Steps**
Preparations are underway for the next board meeting, and any updates on the LHC schedule will be discussed in the next meeting.

2. Tier2 computing – EGI support

Update on EGI Fees and Computing Infrastructure

A meeting was held with key stakeholders involved in the computing infrastructure, including the European Grid Infrastructure (EGI). It was highlighted that no party has the necessary funds to cover EGI fees and the 10% Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) required. An option was discussed involving SWITCH, a Swiss organization responsible for network connections and a member of the Enhancer group, which previously funded this through Swiss universities. However, neither Enhancer nor the universities are able to provide the required funding. If SWITCH cannot support this, the only remaining option may be to build APIs for specific scientific disciplines, but this would affect multiple fields beyond CHIPP such as biomedicine and geography. The current situation presents significant challenges, and further discussions are needed to find a solution.

3. Roadmap updates

Update on Pillar 3 Roadmap Progress

The current bottleneck in the Pillar 3 roadmap is due to delays in receiving a summary from Teresa, who is leading this effort. While the white paper is complete, the roadmap summary is still pending. Teresa has been preoccupied with other commitments, and we may need to assist to ensure the completion of this task.

A draft of the roadmap text with figures is expected by the end of September. The CHIPP board will not have time to review this before submission, so the draft will be based on the editors' work. Figures are expected by October 7th, and the final document is due by the end of October.

Key Deadlines:

- **End of September:** Draft with figures prepared by editors.
- **October 7th:** Figures included in the draft.
- **End of October:** Consolidated draft submitted to the CHIPP board for approval.
- **November:** Roadmap presented to ETH and Swiss universities.
- **December 18th:** Final version of the roadmap published.

We will have a meeting on October 4th with the roadmap editors to approve the draft for board review. If there is no progress by the end of September, the backup plan is to use the previous Pillar 3 roadmap text and incorporate the timeline from the white paper to ensure we meet the deadlines.

Overleaf: <https://www.overleaf.com/project/66d7152cd5a8f515fa438f79>

Experiment list: <https://www.overleaf.com/project/66b9ce6e93252cca0814a002>

Acronyms: <https://www.overleaf.com/project/66b9cb7f44ceb48540fa877d>

Pillar 1: <https://www.overleaf.com/project/65aa1b90c3bb4f48ec968474>

White Paper Pillar 3: <https://www.overleaf.com/project/65ad59ffc16b50f994cd2ae1>

Last version of the Roadmap is on

Indico: https://indico.cern.ch/event/1456621/contributions/6143873/attachments/2931371/5147838/chipp_roadmap2024_overleaf-5.pdf

4. European Strategy Update

- **Kick-off meeting was Sept. 18th**
 - **Attended:** BK as ESG rep for Switzerland, Klaus Kirch for PSI
- **Explanation of groups, process & timeline**

Kickoff Meeting for European Strategy Update

A kickoff meeting for the European Strategy Update took place, with representatives from various groups, including PSI and CHIPP. The strategy update secretariat consists of key members such as Karl Jakobs, Paris Sphicas, Dave Newbold, and Hugh Montgomery.

Timeline and Key Deadlines:

- **March 31, 2025:** First input submission, focusing on feasibility reports.
- **May 2025:** A second input deadline, allowing for updates based on the March submissions.
- **End of September 2025:** Submission of the Physics Briefing Book, which will cover areas such as electroweak physics, Higgs, dark matter, and other topics.
- **November 2025:** Additional input opportunity.
- **December 2025:** Drafting session for the final strategy.

Main Discussion Points:

- Input is requested on the preferred option for the next flagship collider and other physics considerations.

- We must provide a prioritized list of alternative options if the preferred one is not feasible, taking into account factors such as global projects (Japan, China, US) and unexpected LHC results.
- Non-collider projects, especially the importance of the PSI program, will be included in our inputs, with specific focus on Pillar 2 and Pillar 3 considerations.
- We are expected to submit well-structured input, avoiding a "laundry list" of options. National inputs should prioritize specific projects.

Planned Discussions and Input Collection:

- **October 18, 2024:** A meeting will be held to discuss how to collect and organize inputs from the community. This will serve as the groundwork for further discussions.
- **January 2025:** A full-day meeting is proposed to consolidate inputs and finalize a draft response for the European Strategy.
- The possibility of holding additional meetings to discuss inputs in more detail after March 2025 was also suggested.

Involvement of Key Stakeholders:

- The editors, CHIPP board, and the wider scientific community, including PSI, will be involved in shaping the inputs.
- The importance of preparing structured discussions, with assigned individuals leading on various topics, was emphasized to ensure a productive process.

5. CHEF updates

Discussion on Project Application and Matching Funds

The current status of the project application appears positive. One key strength is that we have secured enough funds for Sarah to provide matching contributions, which is a crucial factor in moving the project forward. Additionally, we have strong support from all Swiss institutions, which enhances the project's overall importance and investment appeal.

Comparisons were made with other projects like SHARK, which lacked this broad institutional backing due to fewer accelerator programs, and CTA, which has smaller community involvement. This widespread institutional support puts our project in a favorable position for approval.

PSI Support and Clarifications on Matching Funds:

- PSI's letter of support is in process and has been signed by the director.
- A recurring issue raised by participating institutions involves the transparency around how matching funds are allocated. Many institutions are uncertain about how much funding they will receive from other sources, leading to confusion in their planning.
- In response, a document clarifying management and funding structures has been prepared. This document outlines:
 - **Funding Management Structure:** A group comprising representatives from each funding agency will oversee how funds are distributed. This includes making decisions on scenarios where there are insufficient matching funds or where additional funds are obtained from alternative sources.
 - **PI Representation:** A second group consisting of the project's Principal Investigators (PIs) will focus on project discussions and planning.
- The management plan will be shared soon, and it is designed to provide a fair and balanced approach to ensure transparency and input from all involved institutions.

CHIPP postdoc prize organization

Discussion on Inclusion of External Representation and Prize Criteria

The meeting revisited the proposal to include a representative from astroparticle physics in the committee and the overall criteria for the prize. There was a previous discussion about whether to bring in someone from outside the CHIPP community for added diversity and perspective. However, it was decided that while this might be nice to have, it is not necessary at this stage. The group agreed that an international judge is not required, as it would place an unnecessary burden on external colleagues.

Key Points discussed:

- **Geographical Scope and Work Impact:** Concerns were raised regarding the scope of work, specifically whether the prize should consider only work completed within Switzerland or also work done abroad. It was agreed that the key factor should be whether the individual was working for a Swiss institution during the relevant period. The award should focus on work completed while affiliated with a Swiss institution, even if the work itself was conducted abroad.
- **Swiss Mobility:** A question was raised regarding Swiss researchers working at international institutions while under Swiss fellowships. The consensus was that such researchers should still be eligible, provided they are Swiss-funded and affiliated with a Swiss institution during the relevant period.
- **Refining the Proposal:** The initial vote showed mixed support, with 17 in favor and 5 against. It was agreed that refining the proposal text to include clearer criteria would likely improve support in the next vote.

- **Prize Eligibility Criteria:** The group reaffirmed that the prize should be awarded to Swiss-funded researchers working at Swiss institutions. Postdocs funded by Swiss sources but working abroad (e.g., at MIT) would likely have access to awards from those countries, and thus, do not need to be included. Similarly, foreign-funded researchers working in Switzerland would be eligible, as is often the case with CERN researchers.

Next Steps:

- **Clarifications for the Board:** A more refined version of the proposal will be prepared and circulated to the board two weeks before the next meeting. This will include:
 - Clearer wording on eligibility (Swiss-funded and Swiss-institution affiliated).
 - Addressing points raised during the discussion.
- **Proposal for Vote:** The refined proposal will be submitted as a document for decision at the next board meeting, with any changes highlighted for clarity.

ECR Observer on the CHIPP Board

The group confirmed the decision to have an Early Career Researcher (ECR) observer on the CHIPP board. The process for selecting this individual involves nomination by the plenary and final selection by the executive board, ensuring community involvement.

- **Candidate Selection:** Marko Pesut, a highly engaged ECR who has been involved in strategic planning and event organization, was proposed as a strong candidate. He has worked closely with Armin on recent initiatives, including contributing to machine learning projects.
- **Next Steps:** Tobias will follow up with Marco to obtain a brief summary of his contributions within the CHIPP community, which will support the nomination. The board will first vote on whether to include an ECR observer, followed by a decision on the selected candidate if the vote is successful.

2025 Budget Proposal and New Summer School Initiative:

- **Overview:** The 2025 budget includes a proposal for a new "CHIPP Research Summer School" (working title), aimed at expanding the current summer student program to include more Swiss institutions. This initiative builds on a pilot program that placed students at ETH Zurich and other locations.
- **Program Details:** The program will support summer students (pre-PhD), offering research opportunities and stipends (approximately CHF 2,000–3,000 per month) for a 3-month duration. The proposal also includes a summer school where students would attend lectures and present their work.
- **Financial Considerations:**
 - Total Estimated Cost: CHF 100,000, primarily funded by the host institutions.
 - Funding Request: Luigi Marchesi requested CHF 15,000 from SCNAT for a 3-day summer school, covering expenses for lectures, accommodation, and travel.
 - CHIPP Contribution: An initial contribution of CHF 5,000 was proposed, but concerns were raised about the high cost compared to other established programs, which receive around CHF 8,000-10,000 for longer events.
- **Discussion Points:**
 - The 3-day summer school may be too ambitious, leading to suggestions for smaller, localized events that could lower costs while still engaging students.
 - The board considered limiting CHIPP's contribution to CHF 3,000, contingent on SC providing substantial funding for the summer school.
- **Next Steps:**
 - The board will wait for SCNAT's funding decision, expected by October 10.
 - Depending on SCNAT's funding outcome, the board may propose a scaled-back program focused on smaller events rather than a full summer school.
 - A final decision on CHIPP's contribution will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. Zuoz School Report:

Overall Success: Michael reported that the recent Zoo School was a great success, achieving maximum participant capacity. This was the first time since 2002 that registration had to be closed early due to high demand. The lectures received high praise, contributing to a wonderful atmosphere.

Diverse topics: The program included a range of new topics, such as accelerator physics, and gravitational waves, which were well-received. A last-minute change in the evening lecture replaced Giovanni Losurdo with Julia Harz, who also delivered an excellent presentation.

Participant Feedback: Participants expressed appreciation for the quality and diversity of the lectures. The increase in applications and participation indicated growing interest in the program, not solely attributable to post-COVID factors.

Future Recommendations: Angela was tasked with highlighting new topics in different colors for presentation clarity. The board agreed that emphasizing attendance numbers and the program's history (dating back to 1971) would strengthen future funding requests.

Financial Support: Michael acknowledged the importance of financial support from partners like SCNAT, CHIPP, and PSI in maintaining affordable fees for participants.

7. CH CERN fellowships

Experimental CERN Fellowship: need to look through list and evaluate by Sept. 30th (due Oct. 1st)

Theory CERN Fellowship evaluation by 15 November.

For the EB: Add grades to excel sheet that Angela shared.

8. CHIPP Board/Plenary Organization

- **Board Indico link:** <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1456623/>
- FLARE request - talk of Marcelle Soares de Santos
- Postdoc prize
- Thanks to Prof. Ralph Eichler (ETHZ)
- Strategy update BK Swiss representative (till 2026)
- Code of conduct (CHIPP website)

C. Items for information

9. Status of recent & future meetings

4.10.2024

CHIPP Editorial Board Roadmap 2024 (ZOOM)

18.10.2024

CHIPP European Strategy Update meeting 2024 (ZOOM)

29.10.2024

CHIPP Board 2024-3 (SCNAT – Bern & ZOOM)